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IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A double hung window comprising:

an upper pane and a lower pane, said lower pane including a pivoting latch member, and said upper pane including a keeper, said keeper having a tongue for selectively receiving said pivoting latch member to prevent vertical movement between said upper and lower pane, said pivoting latch member being movable to an open position at which said upper and lower panes may move relative to each other; and

said keeper including a force-applying surface providing a generally elongate surface for providing a downward force to said upper pane, said generally elongate surface being attached to said keeper, said force-applying surface being spaced in an upward direction relative to said tongue, such that said tongue is spaced toward said lower pane from said force-applying surface.

2. (Original) A double hung window as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said force-applying surface and said tongue are integrally formed.

3. (Original) A double hung window as set forth in Claim 2, wherein said keeper and said force-applying surface are provided by a generally u-shaped member, with said generally u-shaped member having downwardly extending legs and a central web, said tongue and said force-applying surface being provided along said central web.

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4. (Original) A double hung window as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said elongate surface is curved along a radius such that an axis of said radius extends generally parallel to a surface of glass in said upper pane of said double hung window.

5. (Original) A double hung window according to Claim 1, wherein said tongue extends along a first distance, and said force-applying surface extends along a second distance, with said second distance being more than twice said first distance.

6. (Currently Amended) A keeper for use in a double hung window comprising:

a generally U-shaped member having a pair of downwardly extending legs connected by a central web, said central web having an inwardly facing surface with a tongue for receiving a latch from a latch mechanism associated with a pane on a window; and

said central web having an upwardly facing force-applying surface with a slight radius of a curvature for receiving a downward force to move a window pane receiving said keeper in a vertical direction, said central web and said force-applying surface extending across said tongue, such that said tongue extends in a first direction from said web, and said force-applying surface faces in a second direction from said central web, with said force-applying surface extending beyond and across a portion of said central web from which said tongue extends.

7. (Previously Presented) A keeper for use in a double hung window comprising:

a body having a tongue for receiving a latch from a latch mechanism associated with a pane on a window; and

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an elongate force-applying surface for providing a downward force to said tongue and a pane receiving said keeper, said tongue extending from said body in a first direction, and said elongate force-applying surface facing from said body in a second direction, said elongate force-applying surface extending along a length of said body which extends on both sides of a portion of said body from which said tongue extends, and which crosses said portion of said body.

8. (Previously Presented) A keeper as recited in Claim 7, wherein said force-applying surface and said tongue are integrally formed as a single part.

9. (New) A double hung window as set forth in claim 3, wherein said central web and said force-applying surface extending generally perpendicular to a downward extending direction of said legs, and said web extending in said perpendicular direction for a distance that is greater than a thickness of said legs in said perpendicular direction, such that said web can fit onto a frame portion of said upper pane with said force-applying surface facing upwardly.

10. (New) A keeper as set forth in claim 6, wherein said central web and said force-applying surface extending generally perpendicular to a downward extending direction of said legs, and said web extending in said perpendicular direction for a distance that is greater than a thickness of said legs in said perpendicular direction, such that said web can fit onto a frame portion of an upper window pane with said force-applying surface facing upwardly.

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11. (New) A keeper as set forth in claim 7, wherein said central web and said force-applying surface extending generally perpendicular to a downward extending direction of said legs, and said web extending in said perpendicular direction for a distance that is greater than a thickness of said legs in said perpendicular direction, such that said web can fit onto a frame portion of an upper window pane with said force-applying surface facing upwardly.

12. (New) A double hung window as set forth in claim 1, wherein an entirety of said tongue is vertically below the entirety of said force-applying surface.